

# **Bringing It All Together: Managing a Raccoon Strain Rabies Outbreak**



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# Timeline of Events



# Northeast Ohio to Michigan



# Our Pre-2004 Rabies Experience



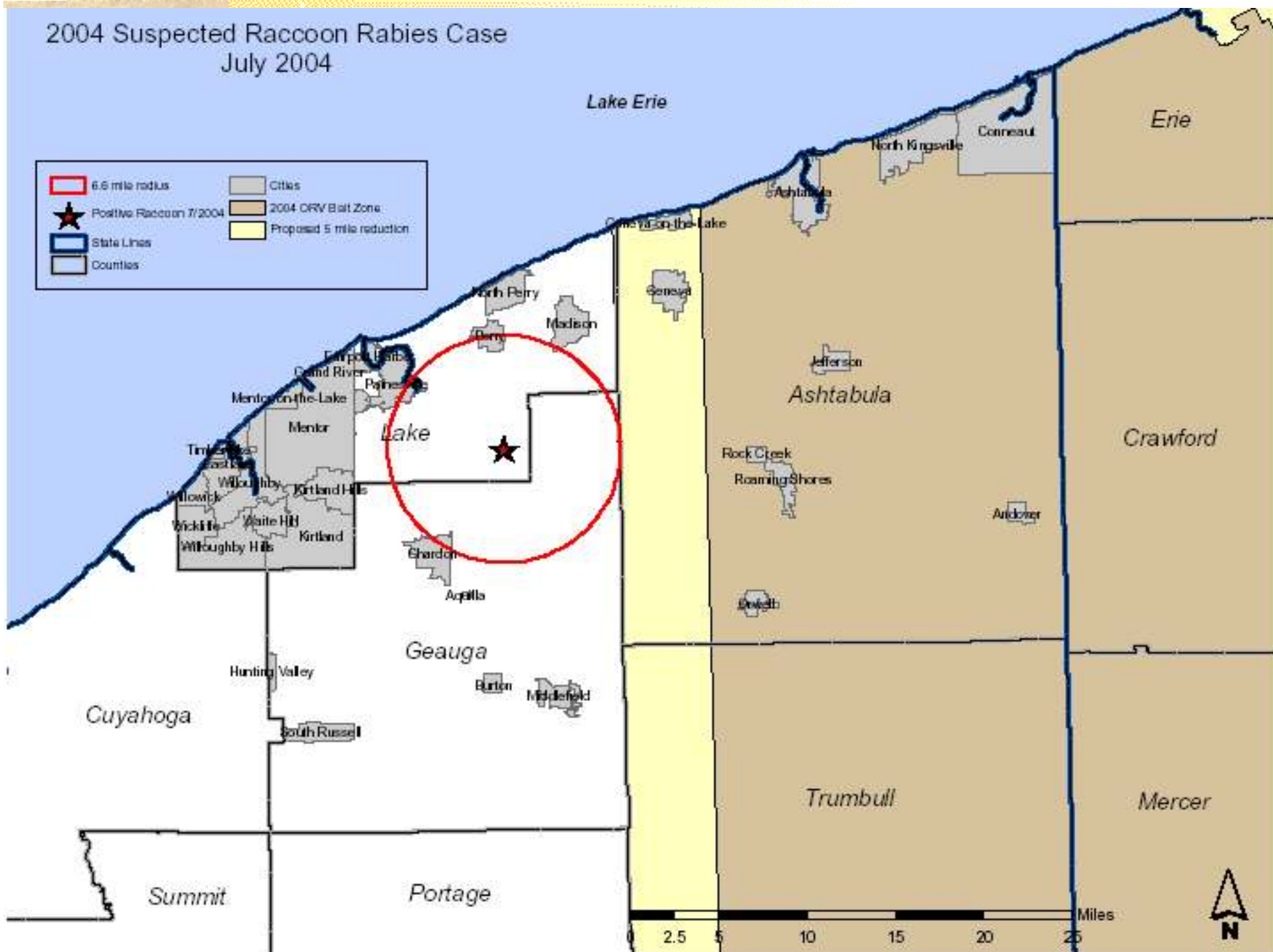
This is Where it All Began...





# **THE RACCOON RABIES WAR**

# 2004 Suspected Raccoon Rabies Case July 2004



# Meet Daisy



# A Not-So-Typical Exposure



- Raccoon enters home and scuffles with elderly dog July 16, 2004. Humans also exposed. Typical Friday afternoon!
- Rabies confirmed July 20, 2004. Typical Monday!!



## The Rest of the Timeline

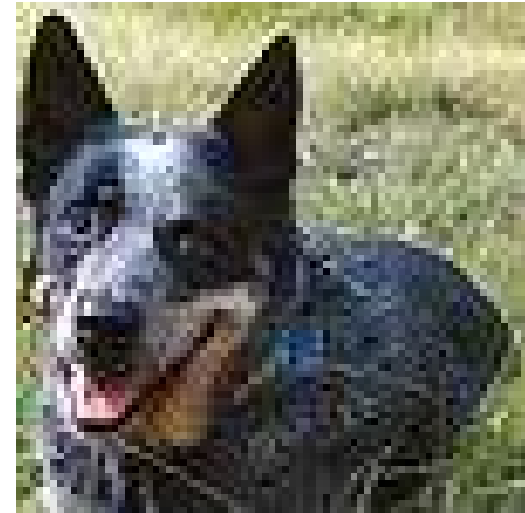
- July 23, one week after the “incident,” CDC confirmed RSR. USDA needs surveillance samples to assess situation.
- First conference call July 26. Other counties asked to help with surveillance.
- July 27, wrote first press release and held press conference. TV and radio interviews.
- July 28, convened Rabies Task Force.



## Our Work Continued...

- July 28 extra staff assigned to answer phone calls
- July 29 held government officials meeting; news release about ORV
- August 2 mailed special issue of Vet Vigil
- August 5 ORV aerial and ground baiting
- August 23 began planning rabies vaccination clinics for dogs, cats, and ferrets
- 26 positives confirmed within 30 days NE Ohio

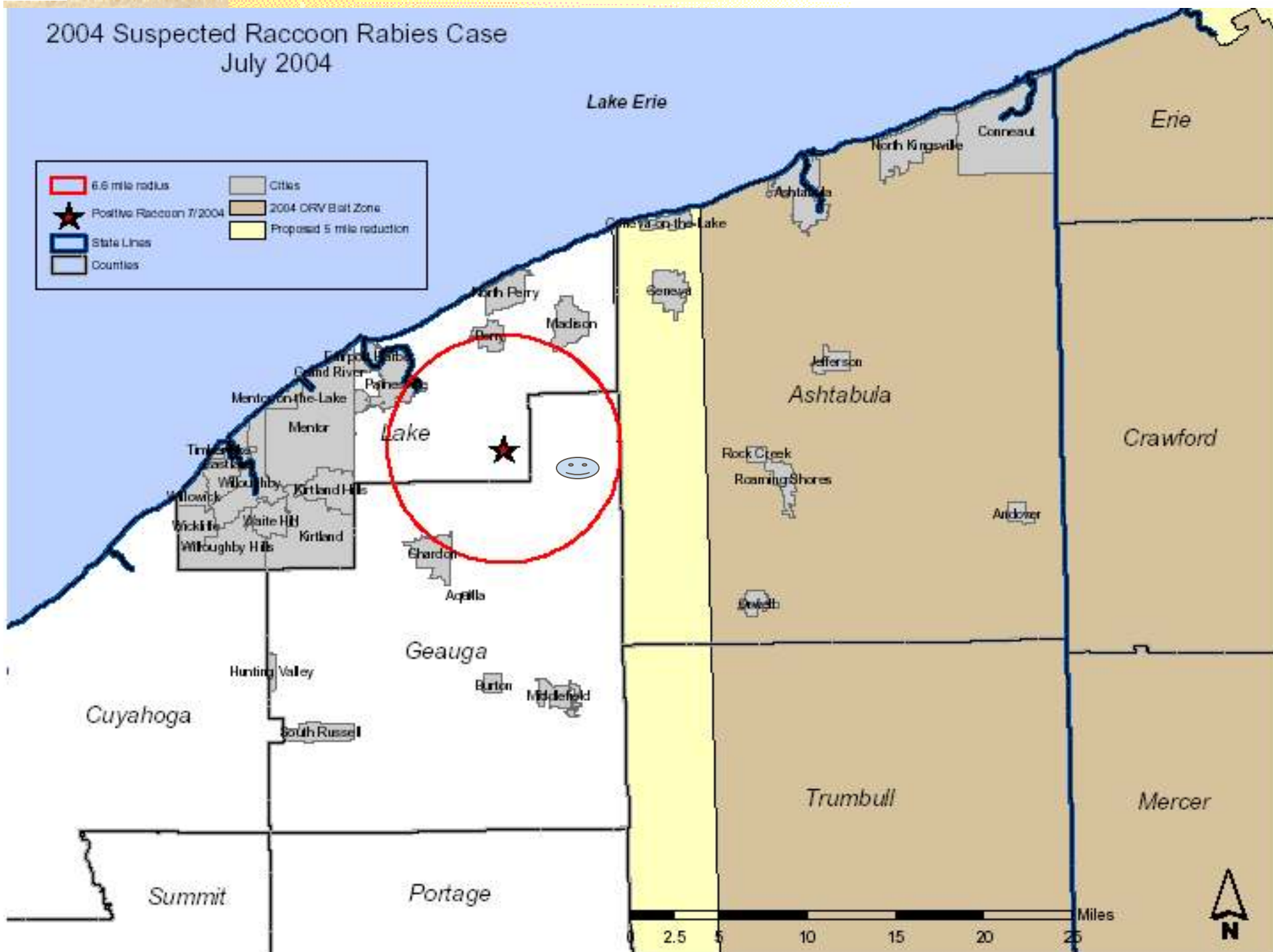
# Why Should I Worry?



provided by Hoard's Dairyman



# 2004 Suspected Raccoon Rabies Case July 2004



# Partnerships and Relationships



# Our Partners





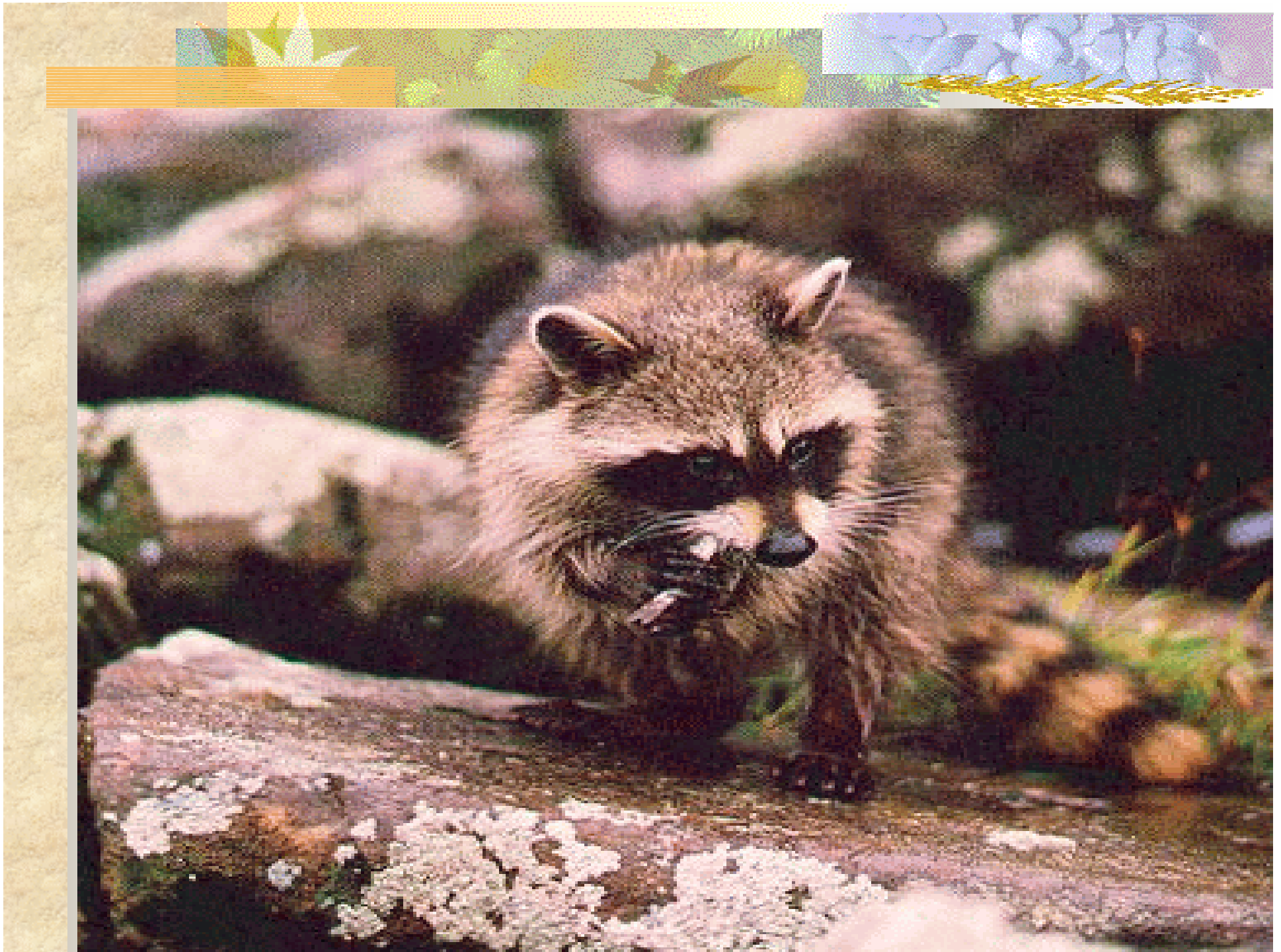
# Important Relationships

- Law Enforcement
- County and City Park Systems
- Community Leaders
  - Administration
  - Service Department
- County Government Officials
- Medical Community



# In-House Partners

- Health Promotion and Planning
- Community and Public Health Nursing
- Vector Control
- Other Environmental Health divisions
- Support staff



# Local Assistance to USDA



# I'm Not a Rabies Expert!



- Locals can provide valuable assistance to state and federal agencies
- Locals are expert at knowing their agencies, government, politics, and communities
- Use established relationships to network and communicate

# Wildlife Service's Mobile Office and Processing Trailer



# What Can We Do to Help?

- By making ourselves available to help, WS and ODNR were able to conduct the field work that was necessary to assess our problem.



Wildlife Services wanted about 100 animals as quickly as possible for initial surveillance. By calling trappers, police, service departments and road crews, we were able to quickly meet their demand.

# **WANTED**

## **for rabies testing**



### **Raccoons that:**

- ❖ **are sick or acting strange**
- ❖ **had contact with pets or livestock**
- ❖ **have bitten or attacked a person**

**We need *your* help to stop this dangerous disease.**

For further information:

# Surveillance Pick-up Crew



## Ground Baiting Totals

Season	Ground Miles	Staff Hours	# Ground Baits
Fall, 2004	750	147	22,833
Spring, 2005	1,062	173	22,160
Fall, 2005	1,493	184	22,320
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,305</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>67,313</b>



# What We've Done



- **Provided Assistance to State & Federal Agencies**
- **Notified Political Subdivisions**
- **Notified Professional Communities**
- **Distributed 50,000 Baiting Pamphlets**
- **Notified Local Police and Road Crews**
- **Rabies Task Force Meeting**

# More of What We've Done



- **Active Surveillance-  
ODH Contract**
- **Mass Dog/Cat Rabies  
Vaccination Clinics**
- **Strategies for Increased  
Enforcement of  
Mandatory Vaccination**
- **Sentinel Vets**
- **Considered Regional  
Rabies Task Force**
- **Continued Education**

# Rabies Task Force



# Lake County Rabies Task Force

## Raccoon Rabies Contingency Plan



- Established June 1997 to make recommendations regarding the approaching epizootic, which threatened NE Ohio but did not arrive
- Meets on as as-needed basis



# Rabies Task Force Members

- County Officials: Auditor, Board of Health, Dog Warden, Health District
- Nuisance animal trapper
- Hospital Emergency Department
- Law Enforcement: Police and park ranger
- Park Wildlife Center animal rehabilitator
- ODNR Wildlife Officer
- Veterinarians
- County Extension Agent



# Raccoon Rabies Contingency Plan

- Important contact phone numbers
- Response procedures for confirmed RSR
- Sample news releases
- Sample letters of information to schools, law enforcement, and other agencies
- List of local nuisance wildlife trappers
- Revised as needed

# Concerns From the Public



# The Phone Never Stopped Ringing

- Additional staff were needed to answer RSR-related calls.
- Approximately 50 calls/day were fielded for the first few months.

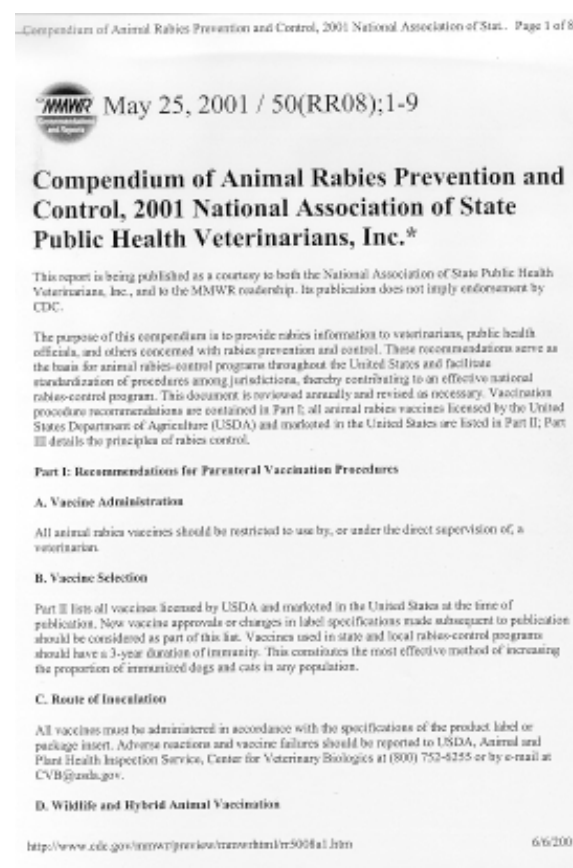
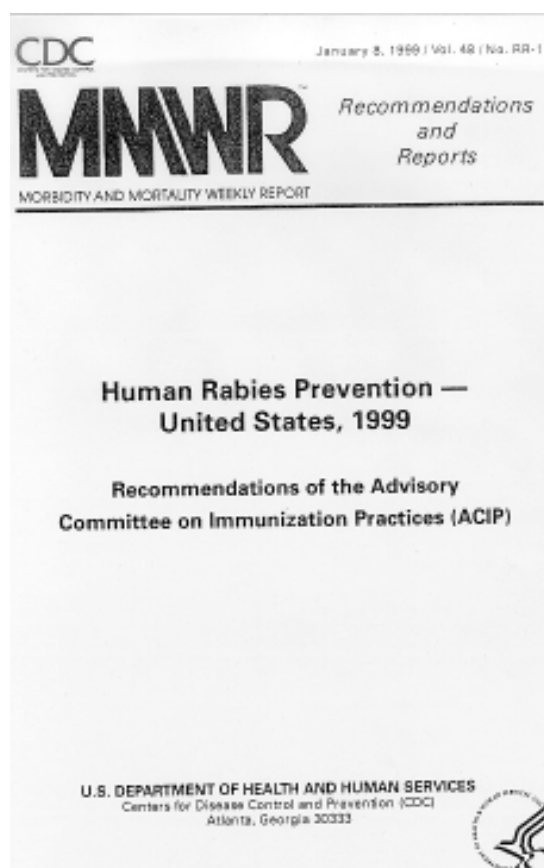


# Be Prepared for Lots of Questions...



- Can I buy my own ORV bait?
- I have a raccoon in a live trap. What should I do?
- Can you stop my neighbor from feeding the raccoons?
- My unvaccinated dog got in a fight with a raccoon. What should I do?

# Our Best Resources



# Increase Rabies Awareness





## Low Cost Rabies Vaccinations

\$2.00

Dogs ♦

Cats

♦ Ferrets

4 Months and Older

February 27, 2006  
5:30-7:30 PM  
Leroy Township Fire Hall  
13028 Leroy Center Road  
Leroy Township

June 7, 2006  
5:00-8:00 PM  
Lake County Fairgrounds—4-H Bldg.  
1301 Mentor Avenue  
Painesville Township

September 27, 2006  
5:00 PM — 7:00 PM  
Bill Stanton Park  
5555 Chapel Road  
Madison Township

November 1, 2006  
5:00 PM—7:00 PM  
Eastlake Service Garage  
Eastlake City Hall  
Route 91 and Lake Shore Blvd.  
Eastlake

- No Appointment Necessary
- Cash Only
- Pets Must Be Restrained (on a leash or in a carrier)

Clinic Sponsored by the Lake County General Health District, Leroy Township Trustees, Leroy Township Fire Department, Madison Township, and City of Eastlake.

Volunteer Veterinarians: Dr. Alvin J. Brown from Concord Veterinary Hospital; Dr. Joel Percival from Kirtland Veterinary Hospital; and Dr. Robert Slebody and Dr. Jovanavik of Meadowlands Veterinary Center will give vaccinations.

Vaccinations will be valid for one year. You will receive a tag and a certificate.

For more information, call 440-350-2417.

See [www.lcghd.org](http://www.lcghd.org) for dates of future rabies clinics!



# Rabies Vaccination Clinic



# Another Successful Clinic



# Service Garage Clinic Site



# Community Center Clinic Site



## 2005 Rabies Vaccination Clinics

Location	Vet	Date	# Dogs	# Cats	# Ferrets	Total
Leroy	Joel Percival	2/28/05	95	81	4	180
Painesville	Alvin Brown	6/7/05	288	133	9	430
Madison	Alvin Brown	10/5/05	172	150	3	325
Eastlake	Alvin Brown	11/2/05	230	139	8	377
<b>Total</b>			<b>785</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1,312</b>





# Keep Rabies in the News

- Speak to reporters as often as possible
- Write articles for community newsletters
- Make speakers available for presentations
- Communication with sportsmen and trappers
- Web site articles
- Update staff regularly so they have the facts and can speak intelligently about rabies

# Questions

